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Wooden utensils: 1, Two tubs and a spoon (Alepúe). 2-5, Wooden dishes. (Figures 2-4 courtesy Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago de Chile; 5, Alepúe.) 6, Wooden trough (right) and wooden ladle (in woman's hand) used in washing clothes. (Picture bought in Temuco.)

F: 1864

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for 3 or 4 years in boarding schools did not keep them from wearing the kapam as adult women, noted the interpreter. "I have noticed, too," she added, "that as soon as they marry, they wear the kapam. One young woman told me recently that, in any event, the kapam was more comfortable." Girls of school age wore modern dresses, unless they came from very isolated areas, in which case they wore the kapam; older ones wore calico dresses; younger ones, either calico or jumperlike knitted ones. (Pls. 5, 3; 7, 1, 3; 11, 2; 17.)

Children are barefoot. If shoes are owned they are usually worn only at church services and when going to Chilean towns. One little Alepin girl wore her sister's shoes to school, "because I have a cold."

Women today who own traditional silver accessories and ornaments quite evidently wear them with a feeling of distinction. (Pls. 27, 55.)

FIG. 6.—Women's earrings. (Courtesy Museo Araucano de Temuco.)

They are highly prized, and are always worn at festivals, "or when the Mapuche meet in large crowds anywhere." At a festival in Alepin area, nine women, probably older than 50, who wore silver ornaments were pointed out by other women as being dressed in the "real Mapuche way of old times." With few exceptions, silver ornaments were heirlooms, and in nearly all instances had belonged to an old relative of the owner, usually the woman's mother. "All these on my head were given to my mother when she was a young girl." Silver things worn by women were stickpins, safety pins, large ornamental pins, ear pendents, headbands, and head ornaments. (Cf. pp. 59-61 for personal adornments.)

Clothes are washed on flat rocks or on wooden slats in running water found near the ruka, usually the same brook from which drinking water is obtained, but below the source of the drinking water. Women and older girls do the washing, with, occasionally, a boy of school age helping. Several hours previous to washing, things to be washed are soaked in water at home, and soap, if there is any, is added. In most areas the water is soft, and even non-Araucanians used

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296 soap sparingly, "because none is needed; the water seems to have no hardening minerals in it" (Alepúe area).

The article to be washed is placed on the rock or slat, and is slapped with a flat, long-handled, wooden ladle (pl. 42, *f*), made in one piece to lessen the chance of its being broken. After the article has been well slapped, it is rinsed by being swished back and forth in running water. Slapping and rinsing is repeated until the article is clean. Persons more often kneel than stand while washing. The wash is carried home wet and is hung on bushes and fences to dry. Ironing today is done in the rural Chilean way—either with a flatiron heated directly on glowing coals, or with charcoal irons into which burning coals are placed.

DOMESTIC HANDICRAFTS

SPINNING, DYEING, WEAVING

236 Several days before sheep are sheared they are washed with a decoction of leaves of canelo, which the women pour on while the men work the wool with the hands. "This decoction makes a good foam and certainly washes the sheep clean." Both men and women shear sheep.

The sheared wool is hung on fences where it generally stays until it is needed for weaving some article. The woman then pours boiling water over it and takes it to the brook or river where she works it well with her hands in the swift running water and swishes it vigorously back and forth so that "all dirt and little sticks will get out of it and float away." No soap is needed—"the oil in the wool cleans the wool." The wool is thoroughly dried on fences in the sun.

213 [446] Formerly all women and girls, and many boys 10 years and older, spun wool into yarn; today, boys seldom do. Men rarely did so formerly, and fewer do so today. Wool that is to be spun is disentangled and pulled into long wads by women and children, both boys and girls. The spindle (*hiwekun*) (pl. 57, *1*) is a single smooth, rounded piece of wood slightly grooved near the upper end and weighted with a whorl (*pidhol*) near the lower end. "I made my spindle from a board that was lying around," said an Alepúe woman, "and this whorl I made a year ago. I had some pottery material left after making an olla, and so I made several whorls from it." Her spindle was 17 inches long and 1¼ inches in diameter; the whorl, discoid in shape, 2 inches in diameter and ¾ inch thick. Spindles I saw measured between 16 and 21 inches in length, and ¾ to 1¼ inches in diameter. Whorls were either circular, discoid, or trapezoidal and were 2 inches in diameter and approximately ¾ inch thick.

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shoes are worn in summer and leather shoes in winter. (Pls. 60, 61, 66, 67, 70, 73.) Women's adornments today are earrings and finger rings. Children wear modern clothing like that of Argentine children (pls. 62, 63-66). In general they are barefoot when around home but wear shoes at school and when among non-Araucanians. 291

Clothes and other materials are washed today, as formerly, in rivers and creeks, that is, in flowing water, with crushed leaves of chacay as a detergent—an occasional family today uses soap. "During the time we lived in Chile," said an informant older than 100 years, "we used bark and wood of a tree—I have forgotten its name." 296

DOMESTIC HANDICRAFTS

SPINNING AND WEAVING

Formerly, guanaco wool was spun and woven into clothing and coverings of various types. Guanacos were not sheared; the wool was collected from those killed for food. The hide was prepared for the removal of wool by rolling it up tight, with the wool inside, and letting it lie for three days, after which the wool was easily plucked off by hand. (Informants indicated having the hide on the knee and pulling off handfuls of wool at a time.) Because the wool was so short, it was spun before it was washed, to prevent loss. Today wool shorn from sheep is used; it is washed and then spun. 283

The traditional spindle—still in use today—is a round piece of wood pointed at each end (pl. 78, *1,f*). In a notch made at the upper end the spinner fastens one end of the yarn with a slipknot. Near the lower end is a whorl made of clay. A spindle I saw in use was 23 inches long; its whorl was 2 inches in diameter. The owner carded wool by hand; she pulled it well apart and then shook it vigorously to remove foreign substances; any that remained she picked out by hand. This done, she prepared to spin. She pulled the wool into elongated wads, wound one loosely around her arm, and then fastened an end of it to the end of the yarn on the spindle by rolling it between her fingers. She now rested the spindle on the ground, letting it lean against her, twisted the wad of wool that extended between it and her arm, lifted the spindle, and gave it a twist in midair. This spun the yarn. Since she wanted very finely spun yarn, she twirled the spindle three times in midair. She then opened the slipknot at the notch and wound the yarn that she had just spun onto the spindle by again twirling the spindle in midair. Girls learn to spin "when old enough to be taught how to do it" (probably at 10 years of age). A woman older